

Summer Literacy Institute 2015

Pre-Institute Preparations for K-5 Teams

1. Readings and Reflections

5 articles are being included for reading ahead of the institute. Of the 5, we would like all participants to read *Teaching for Transfer in the Common Core Era* (Dewitz & Graves, 2014) and to **select at least 2 more** from the remaining list (see the I-Chart for the list of articles). Of course, it would be helpful to read all 5 articles as each contains information that we will be considering throughout the institute. As you read, please annotate the texts....mark them up and think critically about the points the authors are making. Use the I-Chart to reflect on each of the discussion questions as you read each article. **Bring the articles and your completed I-Chart to the institute.**

2. Gathering Resources for Text Set and Unit of Study Development

We will be exploring the development of integrated units of study and text sets as methods for bundling standards to guide instruction toward proficiency and as a way of building knowledge across disciplines. You and your team will have time to work on unit and text set development during the institute so that you will leave with at least a start on a unit and text set that supports the unit. You can work as a grade level or grade span team to develop a unit/text set or you can each work individually but support your teammates as you work. To prepare materials to bring, please do the following:

- Select a focus for the unit of study. This can be a concept, topic, theme or current issue but should draw upon content standards from not only English Language Arts but also another content area (or multiple areas). For example, you might select a science or social studies topic or concept for the unit; or you might select a current issue that will pull in standards from multiple disciplines.
- Search for a range of texts that contain information that will help students build knowledge related to the focus of your unit. Texts should represent the appropriate complexity for your grade/grade span, but may also include texts that are more or less complex than your grade level/grade span. Texts can take a variety of forms, too (e.g. books, articles, online-resources, poems, etc.). Bring the texts with you to the institute.

3. Explore [*In Common*](#)

In Common is a collection of student writing samples that are annotated to reflect evidence of the writing standards for each grade K-12. Samples in the collection include both on-demand and process writing pieces. This bank of samples may serve as a tool for your unit planning efforts so we'd like you to be familiar with it.

4. Standards

Make certain that you have Maine's ELA/Literacy standards downloaded on your computer for easy access during the institute.